



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/481,477	01/11/2000	GEORGE G. GELFER	P99.2547	5685

7590 08/17/2006

Schiff Hardin & Waite
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3629

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to Appeal Brief received by the office on 22 May 2006 and 03 August 2006 proposed amendment to the pending claim 1 for allowance.

Applicant's Attorney had informed the office on 08 August 2006 that applicant would not want to amend the pending claim 1 as proposed by the office and would like to proceed with the prosecution of the application with the current pending claims in the application.

However, during the search of another application, examiner found new prior art JP 02032665 A which teaches "In an automatic material ordering device, detecting the fact that the remaining quantity of the material goes less than a value set in advance, a material refilling signal (c) is transmitted to the reception side device 40 to perform the automatic ordering of the material when the remaining quantity of the material goes less than the constant value".

Also, another prior art Barnes et al. US Patent 5,970,475 which teaches system and method which enables a plurality of users within a purchasing organization to procure goods/services from pre-arranged suppliers, consistent with the level of authorization given to each user.

Office is waiting for the translated copy of the JP 02032665 A reference. Office will issue response to applicant's appeal brief after review of the newly found references.

Art Unit: 3629

PAT-NO: JP402032665A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 02032665 A

TITLE: AUTOMATIC MATERIAL ORDERING DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: February 2, 1990

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

SATO, SHIRO

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

KONICA CORP

COUNTRY

N/A

APPL-NO: JP63182540

APPL-DATE: July 21, 1988

INT-CL (IPC): H04M011/04, H04N001/00

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To perform the automatic ordering of a material by using a communication line by connecting the line to a reception side device registered in advance, and transmitting a material refilling signal to the reception side device when it is detected that the remaining quantity of the material goes less than a constant value.

CONSTITUTION: In an automation material ordering device, a detecting signal (a) is outputted from a detecting signal generating means 32 in the case of detecting the fact that the remaining quantity of the material goes less than a value set in advance by a detecting means 31. The line to the reception side device 40 registered in advance is connected to a transmission means 33 based on the detecting signal (a). When the line is connected, the material refilling signal (c) is transmitted to the reception side device 40. In such a way, it is possible to perform the automatic ordering of the material when the remaining quantity of the material goes less than the constant value.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1990,JPO&Japio

Art Unit: 3629

⑩ 日本国特許庁(JP)

⑪ 特許出願公開

⑫ 公開特許公報(A) 平2-32665

⑬ Int. Cl.⁵

識別記号

庁内整理番号

⑭ 公開 平成2年(1990)2月2日

H 04 M 11/04
H 04 N 1/00

1 0 6 Z

8020-5K
7334-5C

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全6頁)

⑮ 発明の名称 自動資材発注装置

⑯ 特 願 昭63-182540

⑰ 出 願 昭63(1988)7月21日

⑱ 発 明 者 佐 藤 司 郎 東京都新宿区西新宿1丁目26番2号 コニカ株式会社内

⑲ 出 願 人 コニカ株式会社 東京都新宿区西新宿1丁目26番2号

⑳ 代 理 人 弁理士 山口 邦夫

明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

自動資材発注装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 通信回線を利用して信号を送受信する伝送装置において、

資材残量を検知する検知手段と、

上記検知手段において資材残量が一定値以下と検知されたときに検知信号を発生する検知信号発生手段と、

上記検知信号に基づいて、予め登録されている受信側装置に回線を接続し、該受信側装置に向けて資材補給信号を送信する送信手段とを具備し、

上記通信回線を用いて資材の自動発注を行うことを特徴とする自動資材発注装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[産業上の利用分野]

この発明は、電話回線などの通信回線を利用し

て信号を送受信する伝送装置、例えばファクシミリ装置などに適用して好適な自動資材発注装置に関する。

[発明の背景]

通信回線を利用して信号を送受信する伝送装置としては、既設の電話回線で画像信号を送受信するファクシミリ装置などがよく知られている。

このファクシミリ装置においては、受信された画像信号に基づいてファクシミリ装置内に設けられている記録紙上にその情報が再現される。

そのため、画像信号を受信する度に記録紙は消費される。

したがって、ユーザは記録紙が無くなる前に補給する必要がある。

そこで、ユーザに対して記録紙の消費度を知らせるために、記録紙の最終端から所定の長さだけ記録紙の一部、例えば受信画像にあまり影響を与えない左端部分に赤色などのマーカを付けている。

したがって、ユーザはマーカ付きの記録紙によって残量が少ないことを知り、資材補給業者に記録



US005970475A

United States Patent [19]
Barnes et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,970,475
[45] **Date of Patent:** Oct. 19, 1999

- [54] **ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
AND METHOD FOR TRADING PARTNERS**
- [75] **Inventors:** Robert L. Barnes, Summit; Andrew J. Bertl, Jersey City, both of N.J.; Kevin Doyle, Tring Hertfordshire, United Kingdom; Peter J. Rawlinson, Jersey City, N.J.
- [73] **Assignee:** Intellsys Electronic Commerce, LLC, New York, N.Y.
- [21] **Appl. No.:** 08/949,182
- [22] **Filed:** Oct. 10, 1997
- [51] **Int. Cl.** G06F 17/60
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** 705/27; 340/825.3; 340/825.31;
340/825.34; 705/1; 705/26
- [58] **Field of Search** 340/825.3, 825.31,
340/825.34; 705/1, 8, 26, 27

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,774,663	9/1988	Musmanno et al.	364/408
4,796,292	1/1989	Thomas	379/91
4,799,156	1/1989	Shavit et al.	364/401
4,812,994	3/1989	Taylor et al.	705/400
4,897,867	1/1990	Foster et al.	379/93.12
4,951,196	8/1990	Jackson	364/401
4,984,155	1/1991	Geier et al.	364/401
5,063,506	11/1991	Brockwell et al.	364/402
5,224,034	6/1993	Katz et al.	364/401
5,270,922	12/1993	Higgins	364/408
5,319,542	6/1994	King, Jr. et al.	705/27
5,355,474	10/1994	Thuraisingham et al.	395/600
5,361,199	11/1994	Shoquist et al.	364/401
5,455,406	10/1995	Terashima et al.	235/379
5,465,206	11/1995	Hilt et al.	364/406
5,475,585	12/1995	Bush	364/401
5,504,893	4/1996	Kawashima et al.	395/600
5,515,268	5/1996	Yoda	364/401
5,528,490	6/1996	Hill	364/403
5,544,040	8/1996	Gerbaulet	705/26

5,557,518	9/1996	Rosen	364/408
5,592,375	1/1997	Salmon et al.	705/7
5,592,378	1/1997	Cameron et al.	705/27
5,623,660	4/1997	Josephson	395/609
5,666,493	9/1997	Wojcik et al.	705/26
5,694,551	12/1997	Doyle et al.	705/26
5,721,832	2/1998	Westrope et al.	705/27
5,758,329	5/1998	Wojcik et al.	705/28
5,799,289	8/1998	Fukushima et al.	705/400
5,808,894	9/1998	Wiens et al.	364/479.01

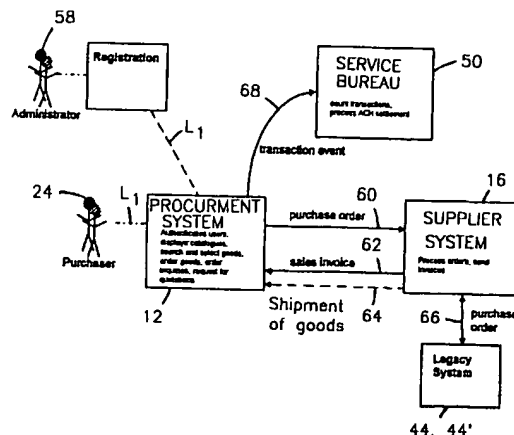
Primary Examiner—Edward R. Cosimano
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lackenbach Siegel Marzullo
Aronson & Greenspan, P.C.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An Electronic Commerce system enables corporate purchasers and suppliers to electronically transact for the purchase and supply of goods/services. The system includes three major hardware and software components: buyer, supplier and bank/administration. To enable suppliers to supply goods and services online and process electronic orders, several software components are used for operating a supplier processor server and a supplier catalog server. To enable corporate purchasers to purchase products and services online, preferably over the Internet, from suppliers, software is used for operating a customer server to which multiple users may log-on and access the supplier server. An Automated Clearing House (ACH) server may be used to interface with a bank's (ACH) systems. A service bureau that supplies the hardware and/or software components and assists to administer the system includes a transaction counter, which records transactions and charges the buyers and/or suppliers based on the number of purchase orders and/or invoices issued.

Although the present invention has been described in relation to particular embodiments thereof, many other variations, modifications and other uses will become apparent in those skilled in the art. It is preferred that the present invention be limited not by the specific disclosure herein, but by the scope of the appended claims.

25 Claims, 26 Drawing Sheets



Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 6:00 (Wednesday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Naresh Vig
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

August 14, 2006